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Policies and Procedures Minutes 09/06/2011

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

School Committee Room – September 6, 2011 – 7:30a.m.

Approved Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Judson L. Pierce-Chair
Jeff Thielman

Administration: Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bodie

Absent: Subcommittee Member Joe Curro

Draft Minutes from August 11, 2011 were approved 2-0 on a Motion of Mr. Thielman's which was seconded by Mr. Pierce.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Concerning Three Requests for Suspension of the Open Enrollment Policy for the purpose of recommending 3 Waivers. These families have been denied their open enrollment applications.

Jen Goodwin spoke about her son whom she'd like to send to Bishop 3rd grade. Their family recently moved into a house that they thought was within the Bishop district but was rather in the Stratton district. The child's sibling is already a student at Bishop and the child had been attending Bishop for the last three years.

Vita Cohen spoke about wanting her child to attend Bishop 3rd grade.

Melissa Murray has one son at Bishop and would like her daughter to be enrolled in Bishop Kindergarten. She temporarily moved to the Brackett district but is planning on relocating to Bishop this fall.

Mr. Thielman moved to recommend to the School Committee the suspension of File JCA for the purpose of granting 3 waivers of families who have one child already enrolled at Bishop so as to allow their sibling to enroll at the same school. Mr. Pierce seconded. Dr. Bodie indicated that she would support this Motion. The Motion passed 2-0.

Several Stratton Fifth Grade parents were in attendance and participated in public participation to discuss the fifth grade class size. Mr. Joe Dalton stated that this particular grade has had large class size for 3 consecutive years. Mr. Dalton stated there should be more equity among the schools and a 3rd class should be opened up at the Stratton fifth grade level. Mr. Dalton also talked about preparedness for entering the Ottoson next year. Ms. Lynn Horgan questioned whether or not hiring TA's was the best solution to the high class sizes. Mr. Steve Derby stated that class sizes total 60 and there will be 2 maternity leaves that may further disrupt learning.

Dr. Bodie spoke about the lack of physical space at Stratton for a 3rd fifth grade class. That if one was added it would have to be in the computer room or the music room and would therefore disrupt the entire school. Dr. Bodie noted pockets of high class size throughout the district. Dr. Bodie added that the full time TA's also happen to be certified teachers and that she has consulted numerous times with Principal Sheri Donovan and the fifth grade teachers and they are okay with the two classes at the current enrollment numbers.

Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 7:55a.m., seconded by Mr. Pierce. Motion passed 2-0.

